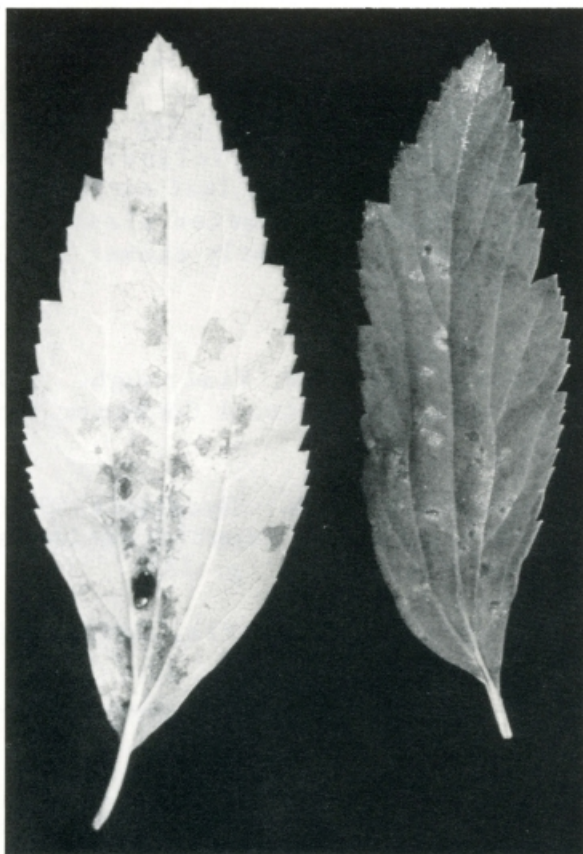


CYLINDROSPORIUM LEAF SPOT OF SPIRAEA

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Spiraea sp. or bridal wreath, as it is commonly referred to, provides an elegant, billowing accent to many landscapes, and supplies snowy white color during its spring bloom (3). Almost all *Spiraea* species are grown in colder climates but a few are adapted to north Florida. The most common species found in Florida is *S. cantoniensis* Lour., but *S. japonica* L.f., and *S. X vanhouttei* (Briot) Zabel can also be grown here. These spiraeas are susceptible to several foliar diseases; one of particular interest is caused by *Cylindrosporium filipendulae* Thuem. (1).



A. Infected leaves showing typical symptoms of *C. filipendulae*. Lesions appear angular and somewhat water-soaked on abaxil leaf surface. Upper leaf surface exhibits irregularly circular leaf spots left with chlorotic halo. DPI Photo by Jeffery Lotz.

B. Diseased foliage shown on right exhibits typical leaf lesions and defoliation. Healthy twig is shown on left. DPI Photo by Dr. Tim Schubert.

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SYMPTOMS: Early symptoms consist of light yellow lesions on both leaf surfaces. These lesions eventually darken and turn brown as the infected tissue dies. Spots produced on the upper leaf surface tend to be darker and become more irregularly shaped than corresponding lesions on the undersurface. Leaf spots caused by *C. filipendulae* usually measure between 1 and 2 mm in diameter but under heavy inoculum pressure and severe infection, lesions can coalesce and blight leaves. Extensive defoliation can also occur. Most of the sporulation is hypophyllous and gives a waxy appearance as great masses of yellowish conidia are produced and exuded from acervular fruiting bodies (2).

CONTROL: Little disease control information has been compiled for spiraea since its popularity and landscape applications are limited to the northern areas of Florida.

Although no fungicides are specifically registered for control of *Cylindrosporium* leaf spot on species of *Spiraea*, benomyl is quite effective and has a broad label registration for ornamental plants (4). In addition to fungicide applications, removal of infected leaf litter will help reduce fungal inoculum and leaf infection. Spores of *C. filipendulae* are most commonly spread between susceptible host plants by splashing water; therefore, foliage should be kept as dry as possible.

SURVEY AND DETECTION: Plants infected with *Cylindrosporium filipendulae* will show chlorotic and necrotic round to irregularly shaped leaf spots. Yellowish spore masses exuded from acervuli will be evident predominantly on lower leaf surfaces and can be viewed easily with the aid of a hand lens. Heavily infected plants will exhibit coalescing leaf spots and subsequent defoliation during early summer months.

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